

SPSO decision report

Case: 201101384, Aberdeenshire Council
Sector: local government
Subject: handling of application (complaints by opponents)
Outcome: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Mrs C complained about the way in which the council handled an outline planning application to build a house for an agricultural worker on a site close to her home. She made a number of allegations about the availability of information which, she said, prejudiced her in making representations against the proposed development. She said the council had not properly considered her objections to the development.

When we investigated the complaint we reviewed the council's planning file and complaints file. The information in these confirmed that, while Mrs C wished to view planning details online, not all of it was available that way, as some was held only in hard copy. However, Mrs C did manage to see the relevant information. The council's area committee, who were to consider the outline planning application, also twice deferred their consideration, and took other action, in order to give Mrs C time to see the information and to consider her representations.

We noted that Mrs C was given this extra time in which to see the information and have her representations heard. Although she disagreed with the committee's eventual decision, we found no evidence that it was not properly taken.